Impact of Tribal Act

155. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Board of Wild life has recently decided to stall the notification of the Tribal act, passed by Parliament in last December;

(b) if so, whether any sub-committee has been constituted to look into the adverse impact of the Act; and

(c) if so, the details of the terms of reference of the sub-committee, its members and by when the committee has been asked to submit the report?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, no such decision has been taken by the National Board for Wild Life.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tribal communities in the country

†156. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal communities in the country and whether their accurate list is available with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the criteria for being a tribal; and

(d) whether there is any new proposal to include Nepali language speaking sub-castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) In the Constitution of India, only the term "Scheduled Tribe" is mentioned. The Scheduled Tribes are notified by the Presidential Order under Article 342 (1) of the Constitution. State-wise list of notified Scheduled Tribes in India is indicated in the Annual Report 2006-07 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The criteria followed by Government of India for identification of communities for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes are as follows:

(i) Indication of primitive traits;

(ii) Distinctive culture;

(iii) Geographical isolation;

(iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large; and

(v) Backwardness.

(d) No formal proposal for inclusion of Nepali language speaking sub-castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes has been received from any State Government/UT Administration so far.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.